

EXETER TOWN WARRANT – 2020

To the inhabitants of the Town of Exeter, in the County of Rockingham, in the said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

First Session

You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1st, 2020 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session

The second session of the annual town meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 40 Linden Street. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Article 1

To choose the following: 2 Select Board for a 3-year term; 3 Trustees of the Library for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of Swasey Parkway for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of the Robinson Fund for a 7-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 2-year term; 1 Town Clerk for a 3-year term; 1 Town Treasurer for a 3-year term.

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, as follows: Introducing a new allowable use to the C-1 and WC Districts named Mixed Use Neighborhood Development (MUND). MUND would allow for mixed use development to occur at different scales in three existing mixed-use areas of Exeter: Downtown, Lincoln Street, and Portsmouth Avenue. The amendment is the result of the Exeter Housing Future project, which emerged from the recently adopted Community Master Plan. MUND uses a series of incentives to create a mix of housing units (including 10% deed-restricted affordable units) and neighborhood scale commercial operations. Design standards are included to ensure high quality development that is consistent with the scale and historic character of these neighborhoods. New definitions and amendments to the table of allowable uses are included in this article.

Article 3 Zoning Amendment #2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, by modifying Article 9.1. Wetland Conservation District? The purpose of this amendment is to consolidate wetland buffer impact regulations into a single procedure, bring clarity and legal robustness to the application process and submission requirements, and update any references to external regulations. This amendment will accomplish this by making the following changes:

- Consolidate the wetland conditional use permit process under 9.1.6 and wetland waiver process under 9.1.6.C. and further defined under the Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations 9.9, into a single conditional use permit process addressed in the zoning ordinance 9.1. Where criteria for the two procedures differ, the more conservative of the two procedures have been included to ensure the regulations retain the current level of protection.

- Add “as amended” throughout where items reference other regulations.
- Replace the wetland buffer descriptive text with a table consolidating the current conditional use permit buffers and wetland waiver setbacks (9.1.3).
- Remove the definition for no-cut buffer, add definitions for limited use buffer and setback, defer to state definitions for vernal pools and wetland delineation, update reference to regulations or agencies, and arranging definitions into alphabetic order (9.1.4)
- Move criteria-based language within permitted or conditional uses out of the individual uses and into the header category (9.1.5, and 9.1.6).
- Remove water impoundment from the list of permitted uses (9.1.5.F).
- Clarify the application review and submission process defined under conditional uses (9.1.6).
- Clarify the temporary impact restoration and buffer preservation requirements by separating them into individual criteria (9.1.6.B.6 and 7)
- Clarify the enforcement process (9.1.11).

Article 4 - Parks/Recreation Building Design/Construction and Recreation Park Improvements (\$10,850,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten million eight hundred fifty thousand and zero dollars (\$10,850,000) for the design and construction of a building, playground and field improvements at the Recreation Park on Hampton Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$10,850,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 10 year bond at 1.47% interest: .57/1,000, \$57/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 3-2.

Article 5 - Squamscott River Sewer Siphons Project (\$1,600,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million six hundred thousand and zero dollars (\$1,600,000) for the purpose of design, construction, and installation of siphons from Jady Hill to the Main Pump Station and design of improvements to the Webster Ave pump station and force main design as part of the project, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,600,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this purpose. The loan will be repaid as follows: a 10% forgiven by agreement with NHDES, and \$1,440,000 in sewer fees over 10 years. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds plus 10% loan forgiveness).

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 6 – Westside Drive Reconstruction Design/Engineering (\$100,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), for the purpose of planning and design of wastewater and drainage upgrades to the Westside Drive neighborhood area, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a loan agreement of up to \$100,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this purpose. The loan will be repaid as follows: \$75,000 will be forgiven by agreement with NHDES, and \$25,000 will come from sewer fees. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds plus loan forgiveness).

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 7 – Choose Town Officers

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.

Article 8 – 2020 Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling 19,605,537. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$19,323,051, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Estimated Tax Impact: .18/1,000 assessed property value, \$18.00/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 9 – 2020 Water Fund Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,552,795. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$3,457,712 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 10 – 2020 Sewer Fund Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,686,605. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,584,841 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 11 – Groundwater/Surface Water Assessment Program (\$200,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), for the purpose of groundwater and surface water rehabilitation, engineering, feasibility study, and land acquisition for water supply purposes. This sum to come from \$200,000 in water funds. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, water funds).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 12 – Folsom Acres Lift Station Rehabilitation (\$150,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), for the purpose of rehabilitating the sewer lift station located in Folsom Acres off Prentiss Way. This sum to come from \$150,000 sewer fees. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 13 – Lincoln Street Parking Program (\$115,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifteen thousand and zero dollars (\$115,000) for the purpose of implementing recommendations from the Lincoln Street parking report dated January 14th, 2020, to include paid parking along Lincoln Street with consideration of one hour free parking. The sum raised will be paid back to the town's general fund through parking fees. All parking revenues exceeding the initial program cost will be accounted for in the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund adopted by the Town at the 2005 Town Meeting. This sum \$115,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated tax impact: no tax impact).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 14 – Pickpocket Dam (\$110,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000), for the purpose of completing tasks related to a letter of deficiency from the NHDES on Pickpocket Dam. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .050/1,000, \$5.01/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 3-2.

Article 15 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements (\$100,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .046/1,000, \$4.55/100,000 value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-1.

Article 16 – Communications Repeater Site Improvements (\$78,792)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of seventy eight thousand seven hundred and ninety two dollars (\$78,792), for the purpose of making improvements to the

town's public safety communications systems. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .036/1,000, \$3.59/100,000 value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 17 – Highway Truck Replacement (\$65,872)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of sixty five thousand eight hundred and seventy two dollars (\$65,872), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Highway Truck #9, purchased in 2007. This vehicle is primarily used for light duty hauling, landscaping, asphalt work, drainage and catch basin maintenance. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .030/1,000, \$3.00/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 18 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Sidewalks (\$60,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .027/1,000, \$2.73/100,000 value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 19 – Replace Parks/Recreation Tractor with Mini-Loader (\$58,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty eight thousand dollars (\$58,000), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement of the Parks/Recreation Department 1999 tractor with a mini-loader. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .026/1,000, \$2.64/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 20 – Conservation Fund (\$50,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), to the Conservation Fund established pursuant to RSA 36-A:5. These funds will be used for purposes consistent with the Conservation Fund including the purchase of interests in real property to be held for conservation purposes. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .023/1,000, \$2.28/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 21 – Maintenance Sedan Replacement (\$24,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000), for the purpose of replacing a 2008 Crown Victoria maintenance vehicle with a transit van. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .011/1,000, \$1.09/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 22 – Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund (\$100,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 23 – Snow and Ice Fund Appropriation (\$50,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 24 – Epping Road Tax Increment Financing Plan Amendment

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of the Epping Road Tax Increment District Financing Plan Amendment (dated January 7, 2020) in accordance with RSA 162-K:9 IV which allocates the use of tax increments for retirement of bonds and notes as outlined in the plan amendment.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 25 – Citizen’s Petition Article – Granite Bridge Project

By petition,

Shall the town express its opposition to the Granite Bridge Pipeline project.

The scope of this project vastly exceeds the current and future energy demands in New Hampshire. The likely changes in energy production could result in ratepayers paying for technology that will be obsolete before it’s operational. Public Utilities Commission contracted consultants reviewing the project have said the proposed plan is excessively costly and overbuilt for the long term energy needs of New Hampshire.

As proposed by Liberty Utilities, the project includes a 27 mile fracked gas pipeline along Rt. 101 from Manchester to Exeter, a metering station at the site of the Exeter water treatment plant and the construction of a 2 billion cubic foot storage tank (larger than the rainbow tank in Boston) in the Epping quarry. The pipeline would cross the Lamprey River twice and run alongside Lake Massabesic potentially threatening drinking water supply.

The safety risks of gas pipelines is evident in the recent leaks and explosions in Keene and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Furthermore this fossil fuel project with its methane emissions is in opposition to the principles of Exeter’s “Right to a Healthy Climate Ordinance” passed in 2019 and the Select board’s vote to support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Upon passage the voters request that the Select board send copies of this resolution with a record of the vote to Liberty Utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Site Evaluation Committee, and all State Senators.

Article 26 – Citizen’s Petition Article – Holiday Parade

By petition, Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 dollars and no cents to defray the expense of the annual Exeter Holiday Parade for the public under the direction of the Selectmen or a committee to be appointed to serve gratuitously for this purpose.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 27 – Citizen’s Petition Article – Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution

By petition,

New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution

We the town of EXETER hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire’s economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire’s natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to EXETER’s State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to EXETER’s Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by EXETER’s Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.

Article 28 – Citizen’s Petition Article – New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Redistricting

By petition,

To see if the town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to the town of Exeter’s state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Article 29

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Kathy Corson, Chair

Molly Cowan, Vice Chair

Niko Papakonstantis, Clerk

Julie D. Gilman

Anne L. Surman

We certify that on the 27th day of January, 2020, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Exeter Town Hall on Front Street, the Exeter Public Library at Founder's Park, Exeter High School at 1 Blue Hawk Drive, Talbot Gymnasium at Tuck Learning Campus, 40 Linden Street, and the Town Clerk's Office, 10 Front Street.

Given under our hands and seal this ____th day of January, 2020.

Kathy Corson, Chair

Molly Cowan, Vice Chair

Niko Papakonstantis, Clerk

Julie D. Gilman

Anne L. Surman